

JACOX, MECKSTROTH & JENKINS  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
PATENT, TRADEMARK & COPYRIGHT MATTERS  
2310 FAR HILLS BUILDING  
DAYTON, OHIO 45419-1575

TELEPHONE  
937/298-2811

FACSIMILE  
937/298-7418

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Name: Examiner Phi Dieu Tran A. Group Art Unit 3637

Fax Number: 703-872-9326 703-746-3830

Date: January 14, 2003

Re: Application Serial No. 09/993,969

From: Alan F. Meckstroth Fax No.: (937) 298-7418

Total Number of Pages Sent (Including this Cover Sheet): 2

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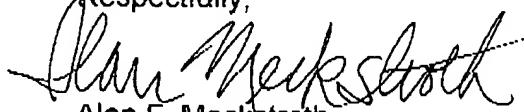
Mr. Tran A:

In response to the rejection of claim 34 in the Office Action of November 19, 2002, please review the following amended claim 34 which should be allowable for the following reasons:

- 1) Amended claim 34 includes the elongated L-shaped plastic insert strips 46 (FIGS. 2 & 3) which have snap-fit connections with undercut grooves within the channels defined by the exterior portions of the head and jamb members.
- 2) Applicants are unable to find any disclosure in any of the references and especially FIG. 9 of Miller et al '743, for the above structure in claim 34. FIG. 9 discloses a flange 168 integral with the header 34 for retaining the frame or top rail 114 of the screen 120. Applicants' structure provides for omitting the strips 46 when a sliding screen door is not desired.

Please call me after you have a chance to review amended claim 34 and to consider the above reasons for patentability of claim 34.

Respectfully,

  
Alan F. Meckstroth  
937/298-2811

Serial No. 09/993,969

34. (Amended) A patio door assembly comprising a rectangular main frame including a pair of vertical jamb members rigidly connected by a top head member and a bottom sill member, said main frame further including a vertical astragal member spaced between said jamb members and rigidly connected to said head and sill members, a first door panel within said main frame and including a rectangular door panel frame supporting a glass panel, a second door panel within said main frame and including a rectangular door panel frame supporting a glass panel, said astragal member and each of said door panel frames and said members of said main frame comprising extrusions of rigid plastics material, said main frame and each of said door panel frames having welded mitered corner joints, a hinge having an inactive leaf secured to said main frame and an active leaf secured to said frame of said second door panel, said head and jamb members including outwardly projecting double wall exterior portions defining laterally inwardly facing channels, elongated plastic insert strips having an L-shaped cross-sectional configuration and forming snap-fit connections with undercut grooves within said channels, and said strips including laterally inwardly projecting flanges adapted to retain a frame of a sliding screen door within said head and jamb members.